

(c) whether there are any fresh proposals from North-East film makers pending with NFDC in this regard;

(d) if so, how many;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the processing of these applications takes a lot of time; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Till date, the Corporation has considered seven applications from the North-East out of which four applications belong to Assam.

(c) and (d) Two fresh proposals from the North-East film makers are pending with NFDC.

(e) No, Sir. While there were some delays for a brief period in the past, this anomaly has been corrected with the constitution of a Regular Board in December 2000.

(f) Does not arise.

Scheme for Journalists

†2422. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Journalists who have lost their lives during news coverage till the year 2000;

(b) the details thereof State-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to formulate any scheme to help the families of such Journalists;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

[19 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) These statistics are not maintained by the Government.

(c) and (d) Finance Minister has, in this Budget Speech 2001, announced setting up of a journalist Welfare Fund with the contribution of Rs. 1 crore, under the grants of this Ministry.

(e) Does not arise.

Foreign Equity for Satellite Channels

†2423. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit 49 cent foreign equity in the field of satellite channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any request has been received regarding limitation of foreign partnership to only 2.5 per cent of total equity capital; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (d) No, Sir. T.V. channels, irrespective of ownership, including equity structure or management control, are permitted to uplink from India through Govt. approved teleports or VSNL, provided they undertake to adhere to Programme and Advertisement Codes laid down by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Downsizing of Ministry

2424. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision of downsizing the Ministry;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.